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199

DIGITAL
EDITION

TODD
McFARLANE

ERIK
LARSEN

SPAWN®



Todd McFarlane and Image Comics Present



PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

A troubled agent is forced to continue a career he walked out on, but finds a very convincing reason to do so.

Clown returns to warn Jim that Heaven and Hell are on the move, and says he's found a clue to Jim's past.

After quitting at the Clarion, Marc reveals why he ambushed Jim at Sara's apartment building with the war vet in the wheelchair, and, again, offers to navigate Jim through the media circus. What Jim doesn't know is Marc is the cause of it.

Another super villain, Patient 46, bursts onto the scene, and badgers Jim about his inclusion in "the program," while a battle takes place. Jim forcibly learns about experiments tested on him and others, and is told he must die like the others before him. However, Jim survives the unexpected clash, and walks straight into the media spotlight.

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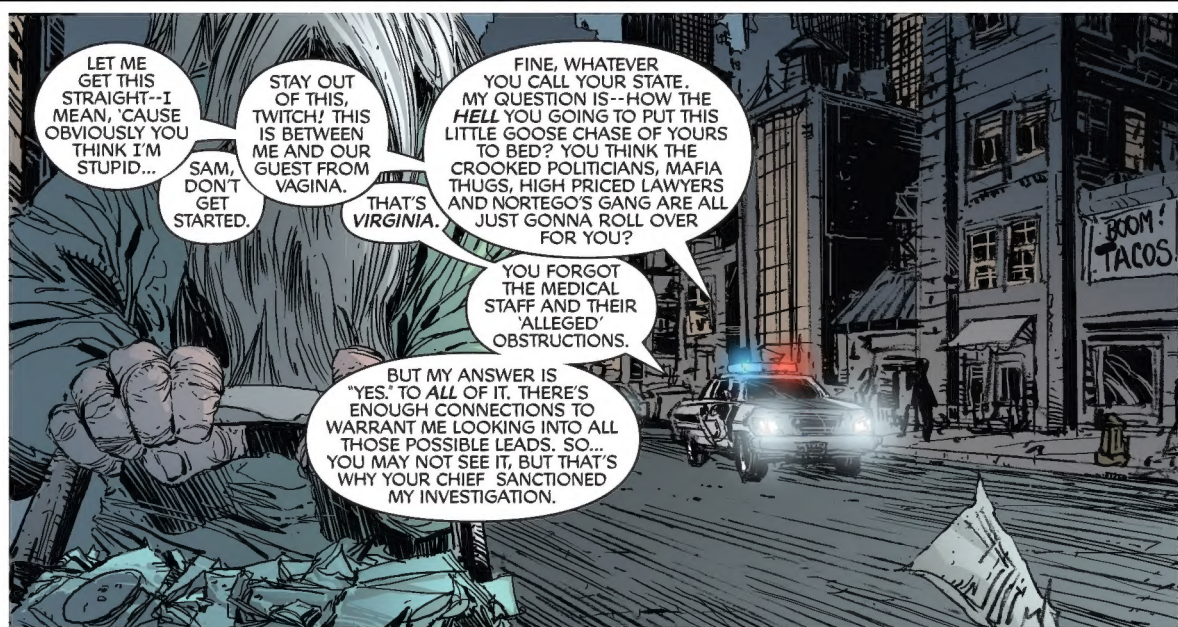
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LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT--I MEAN, CAUSE OBVIOUSLY YOU THINK I'M STUPID...

SAM, DON'T GET STARTED.

STAY OUT OF THIS, TWITCH! THIS IS BETWEEN ME AND OUR GUEST FROM VAGINA.

THAT'S VIRGINIA.

FINE, WHATEVER YOU CALL YOUR STATE. MY QUESTION IS--HOW THE HELL YOU GOING TO PUT THIS LITTLE GOOSE CHASE OF YOURS TO BED? YOU THINK THE CROOKED POLITICIANS, MAFIA THUGS, HIGH PRICED LAWYERS AND NORTEGO'S GANG ARE ALL JUST GONNA ROLL OVER FOR YOU?

YOU FORGOT THE MEDICAL STAFF AND THEIR 'ALLEGED' OBSTRUCTIONS.

BUT MY ANSWER IS "YES." TO ALL OF IT. THERE'S ENOUGH CONNECTIONS TO WARRANT ME LOOKING INTO ALL THOSE POSSIBLE LEADS. SO... YOU MAY NOT SEE IT, BUT THAT'S WHY YOUR CHIEF SANCTIONED MY INVESTIGATION.



WITH YOUR SUPREME GUIDANCE, OF COURSE.

CAN THE SARCASM. I GET ENOUGH OF IT FROM TWITCH.



LOOK, DETECTIVE BURKE, YOU AND I DON'T HAVE TO LIKE EACH OTHER. THAT'S NOT RELEVANT. WHAT IS, IS TRYING TO LEARN WHY I HAVE A MURDER VICTIM BACK IN LANGLEY WITH SO MANY CLUES POINTING HERE TO YOUR CITY.* MORE DISTURBING IS THE FACT THIS WEB JUST KEEPS GETTING WIDER.

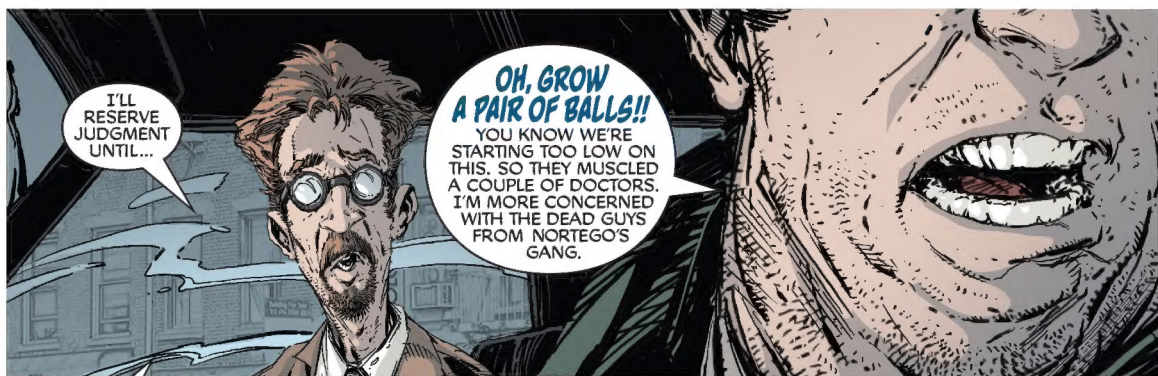
AND YOU THINK US GOING TO HASSLE A FEW DOCTORS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S IS THE BEST PLAN.

IT'S A START.

* Issue 186--Todd.



NO! IT'S A WASTE OF TIME! RIGHT, TWITCH?



I'LL
RESERVE
JUDGMENT
UNTIL...

**OH, GROW
A PAIR OF BALLS!!**

YOU KNOW WE'RE
STARTING TOO LOW ON
THIS. SO THEY MUSCLED
A COUPLE OF DOCTORS.
I'M MORE CONCERNED
WITH THE DEAD GUYS
FROM NORTEGO'S
GANG.



CAR
37! THIS
IS DISPATCH.
DO YOU
READ?

CHRIST!
NOW
WHAT?

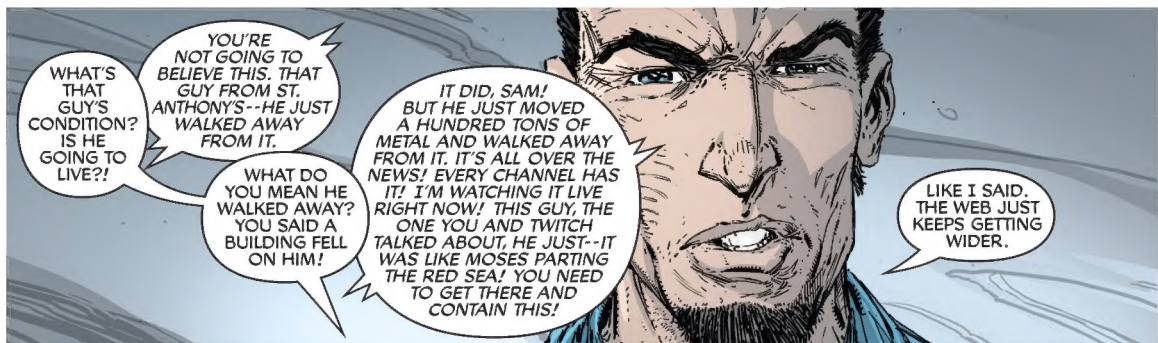
DISPATCH,
THIS IS
DETECTIVE
BURKE.

THERE'S BEEN
A MASSIVE BUILDING
COLLAPSE NEAR LEXINGTON
AND 120th. THE STRUCTURE
UNDER CONSTRUCTION JUST
CAME DOWN. ALL UNITS ARE
TO HEAD THERE IMMEDIATELY.
BUT YOU NEED TO GET THERE
ASAP! THIS ONE MIGHT HAVE
SOMETHING TO DO WITH
YOUR CASE.

HOW'S
THAT?

FROM INITIAL
REPORTS THERE
DON'T APPEAR TO BE
ANY CIVILIAN FATALITIES
BUT THE BUILDING DID
COLLAPSE ON A SINGLE
INDIVIDUAL. AND IT'S THE
SAME GUY THAT WALKED
OUT OF THE FIRE AT
ST. ANTHONY'S* AREN'T
YOU AND TWITCH
WORKING ON
THAT CASE?

* Issue 187--Todd.



WHAT'S
THAT
GUY'S
CONDITION?
IS HE
GOING TO
LIVE?!

YOU'RE
NOT GOING TO
BELIEVE THIS. THAT
GUY FROM ST.
ANTHONY'S--HE JUST
WALKED AWAY
FROM IT.

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN HE
WALKED AWAY?
YOU SAID A
BUILDING FELL
ON HIM!

IT DID, SAM!
BUT HE JUST MOVED
A HUNDRED TONS OF
METAL AND WALKED AWAY
FROM IT. IT'S ALL OVER THE
NEWS! EVERY CHANNEL HAS
IT! I'M WATCHING IT LIVE
RIGHT NOW! THIS GUY, THE
ONE YOU AND TWITCH
TALKED ABOUT, HE JUST--IT
WAS LIKE MOSES PARTING
THE RED SEA! YOU NEED
TO GET THERE AND
CONTAIN THIS!

LIKE I SAID.
THE WEB JUST
KEEPS GETTING
WIDER.



THIS IS
DETECTIVE
TWITCH. DO YOU
HAVE ANY
ADDITIONAL
DETAILS?

THE
REPORTS ARE
SAYING HE WAS
ATTACKED WHERE
HE WAS LIVING BY
SOME SUPER-VILLAIN
TYPE. THE MAYOR'S
OFFICE HAS ALREADY
CALLED THE FBI.



JUST GET
THERE! AND BE
PREPARED FOR A
SHIT STORM!



WE CONTINUE OUR LIVE REPORT FROM THE ABANDONED CONSTRUCTION SITE OF THE DANDRIGE CORPORATION. CROWDS HAVE GATHERED NEAR THE PERIMETER OF THE DESTRUCTION. POLICE AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES ARE JUST NOW BEGINNING TO ARRIVE AT WHAT SOME ARE CALLING A SCALED-DOWN VERSION OF 9/11. AT THE SAME TIME, WHAT BEGAN AS A ROUTINE INTERVIEW WITH A PERSON BELIEVED TO HAVE HELPED HEAL SOME PATIENTS AT VARIOUS HOSPITALS HAS EVOLVED INTO A NEAR-INDESCRIBABLE SIGHT.

AS YOU'VE SEEN FROM THE FOOTAGE WE'VE REPLAYED, THAT SAME INDIVIDUAL SEEMINGLY *WILLED* THE WRECKAGE AWAY FROM HIM IN A SHOW OF UNIMAGINABLE POWER. WE STILL HAVE NO OFFICIAL STATEMENT REGARDING WHO HE IS, OR HOW HE WAS ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH SUCH A FEAT.



WE CONTINUE OUR 'ROUND THE CLOCK COVERAGE OF THIS BREAKING NEWS. A POLICE SOURCE, SPEAKING ON TERMS OF ANONYMITY, TELLS US THAT HIS NAME IS APPARENTLY JIM DOWNING. THAT'S ALL WE KNOW ABOUT HIM AT THIS TIME.

ONE OF OUR REPORTERS SPOKE WITH A NURSE, WHO LIKEWISE PREFERRED TO SPEAK OFF THE RECORD. SHE WAS ON DUTY TWO WEEKS AGO AT THE AREA HOSPITAL WHERE THIS PATIENT WAS TRANSPORTED AFTER THE EXPLOSION AT ST. ANTHONY'S. WHILE SHE WAS ABLE TO CONFIRM HIS NAME, SHE DID NOT KNOW WHO THIS MAN IS. NO ONE SEEMS TO KNOW. OUR OWN STAFF HAS BEEN UNABLE TO FIND ANY BACKGROUND ON WHAT, THUS FAR, APPEARS TO BE A SPECTACULAR MYSTERY OF UNDENIABLY BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS.



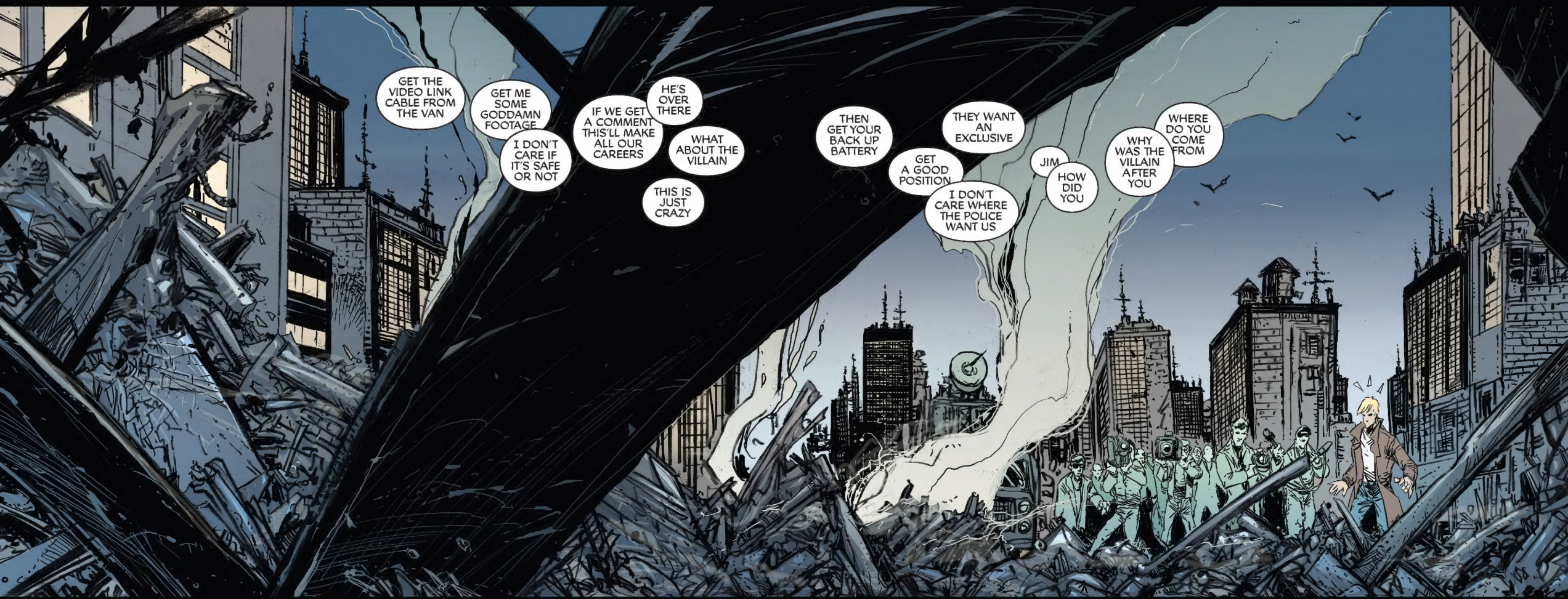
THE SECOND COMING!!

I'M NOT READY TO CALL IT THAT, BUT NOT BECAUSE I DON'T NECESSARILY THINK IT *ISN'T!*

MY SOURCES TELL ME THAT THE *F-B-I* HAS BEEN MOBILIZED ON THIS ONE. D'YOU THINK THEY'LL GIVE US ANY INTEL ON THIS MIND NUMBING CATASTROPHE?...OR EVEN EXPLAIN WHO IN GOD'S NAME THIS *JIM DOWNING* PERSON *IS?* WILL THEY POSITIVELY IDENTIFY THE *BIG, GREEN SUPER VILLAIN* WHO PRECIPITATED THIS ATTACK IN THE *FIRST* PLACE?

WHO'S TO SAY THIS WASN'T ANOTHER *BLACK BUDGET* GONE WRONG? WE *DON'T TRULY KNOW* WHERE OUR TAX DOLLARS ARE GOING!

WE'VE LOST CONTROL OF OUR COUNTRY ON SO MANY FRONTS!!
WE'VE COMPLETELY LOST IT!!



GET THE VIDEO LINK CABLE FROM THE VAN

GET ME SOME GODDAMN FOOTAGE

I DON'T CARE IF IT'S SAFE OR NOT

IF WE GET A COMMENT THIS'LL MAKE ALL OUR CAREERS

HE'S OVER THERE

WHAT ABOUT THE VILLAIN

THIS IS JUST CRAZY

THEN GET YOUR BACK UP BATTERY

GET A GOOD POSITION

I DON'T CARE WHERE THE POLICE WANT US

THEY WANT AN EXCLUSIVE

JIM HOW DID YOU

WHY WAS THE VILLAIN AFTER YOU

WHERE DO YOU COME FROM



MR. DOWNING, PLEASE OVER HERE

ARE YOU SOME KIND OF SUPER HERO

IS THE GOVERNMENT BEHIND ALL THIS

WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO DO THAT

MR. DOWNING, IS IT TRUE YOU 'CURED' DOZENS OF SICK PEOPLE

DOCTORS SAID YOU'RE A LINK TO THESE 'MIRACLES'



MR. DOWNING

JIM

MR. DOWNING



MR. DOWNING

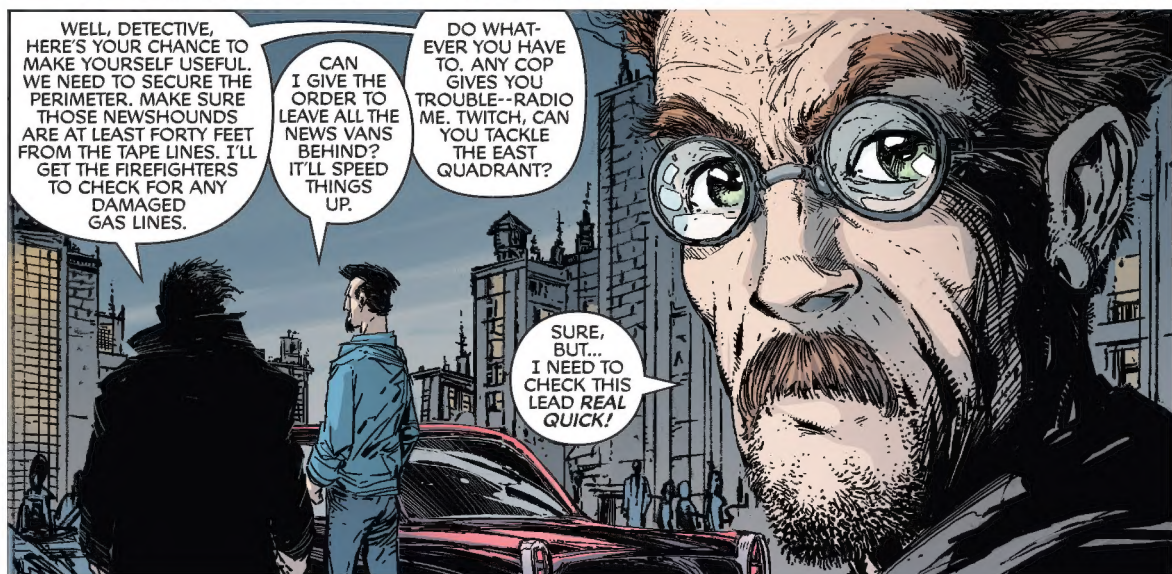


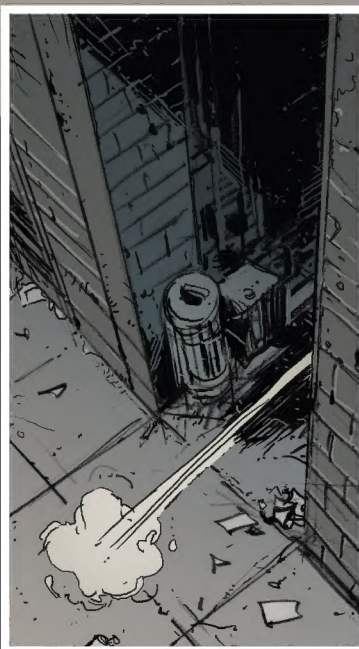
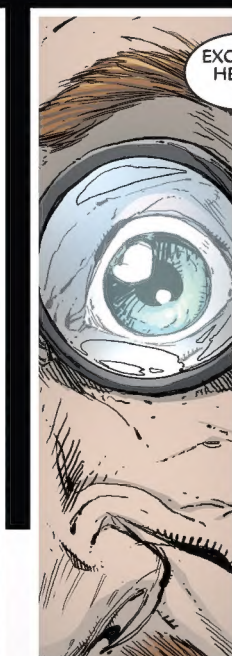
LEAVE ME ALONE!

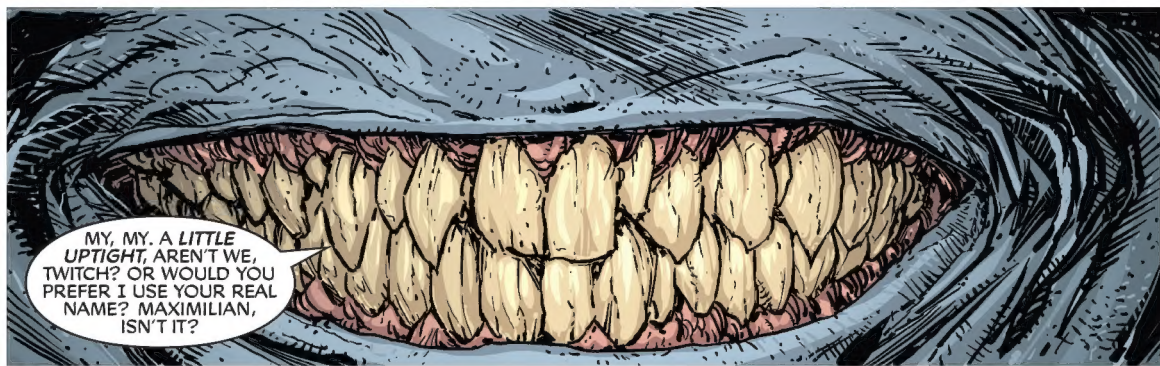




BUT **CHRIST** ALMIGHTY WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT.









SADLY, YOU
STILL THINK YOU'RE
IN CONTROL, EVEN
THOUGH WE RUN THIS
PLANET. BUT LOOK AT YOU,
YOU'RE NOT AFRAID. YOUR
HEART BEAT'S CALM.
THAT'S THE PART I'VE
ADMIRER MOST ABOUT
YOU. IT'S HARD TO
RATTLE YOU.

BUT SOON,
YOU'LL NEED
TO MAKE SOME
HARD
CHOICES.

SO I
WON'T KILL
YOU TONIGHT.
NOT WHEN I CAN
INFLECT PAIN ON
THOSE CLOSE
TO YOU.

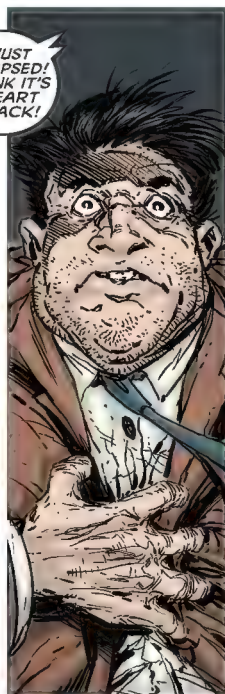


TWITCH!
IT'S ME,
DETECTIVE
ROWAND.
DO YOU
READ?!

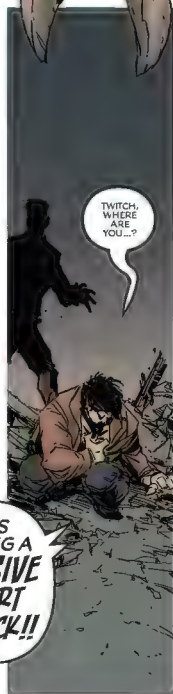
SOME-
THING'S
WRONG
WITH
SAM!



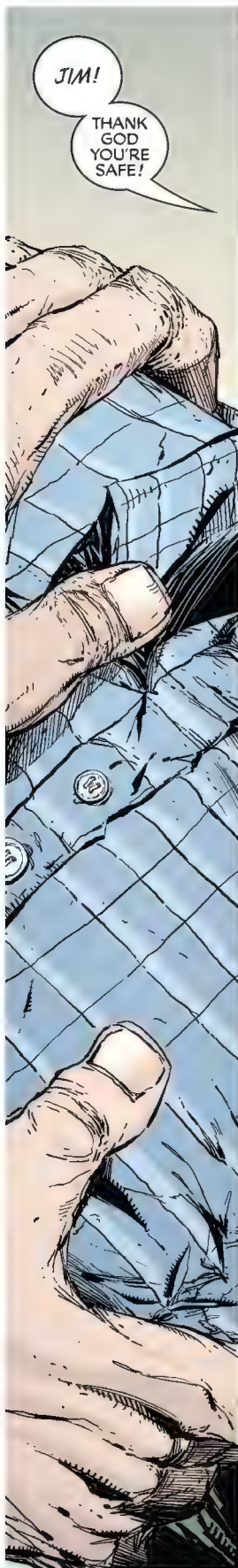
HE JUST
COLLAPSED!
I THINK IT'S
A HEART
ATTACK!



HE'S
HAVING A
MASSIVE
HEART
ATTACK!!



TWITCH
WHERE
ARE
YOU...?



JIM!

THANK
GOD
YOU'RE
SAFE!



SARA, I
CAN'T DO THIS
TO YOU ANY
LONGER!

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?
WHAT'RE YOU
DOING?

PACKING!

PACKING?
TO GO
WHERE?



ANYWHERE!
OTHER THAN HERE.
I NEED TO KEEP SARA
SAFE--BUT I CAN'T!
NOT HERE!

SO YOU
RUN AWAY
INSTEAD? YOU
WON'T GET FAR
WITHOUT
MONEY!



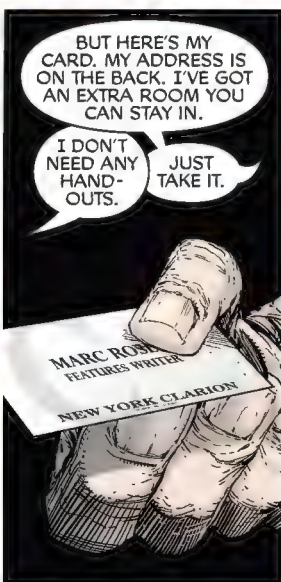
I DON'T GIVE
A CRAP! I SAID IT'S
NOT SAFE! THOSE REPORTERS
WILL BE BANGING ON HER
DOOR ANY MINUTE, LOOKING
FOR ME. AND THEY WON'T STOP.
YOU KNOW THAT! NOT UNTIL
THEY DESTROY ANY SENSE
OF NORMALITY SARA'S
BUILT IN HER LIFE!

SO I'LL
WORRY
ABOUT MONEY
LATER!



JIM--
WAIT!

GET
YOUR
HANDS OFF
ME!!



BUT HERE'S MY
CARD. MY ADDRESS IS
ON THE BACK. I'VE GOT
AN EXTRA ROOM YOU
CAN STAY IN.

I DON'T
NEED ANY
HAND-
OUTS.

JUST
TAKE IT.





THAT THRONE FEELS FAMILIAR, DOESN'T IT? LIKE YOU BUILT IT YOURSELF.



UNH?

BECAUSE IN A WAY YOU DID. IT'S WHY YOU'RE DRAWN TO THIS PLACE. YOU SENSE THE NEED TO EMBRACE THE LEGACY I'VE GIVEN YOU.

THERE'S RAGE IN YOUR EYES. THAT'S GOOD. YOU ALWAYS WERE QUICK TO ANGER. THAT'LL HELP FUEL THE SYMBIOTE'S TRANSFORMATION.

BECAUSE IT'S TIME TO PUNISH THOSE WHO'VE BETRAYED ME DURING MY ABSENCE!

AND YOU'LL BE THE INSTRUMENT I USE TO DESTROY THEM!



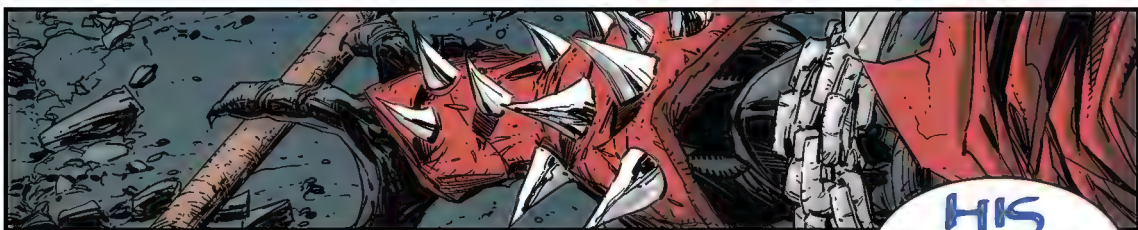
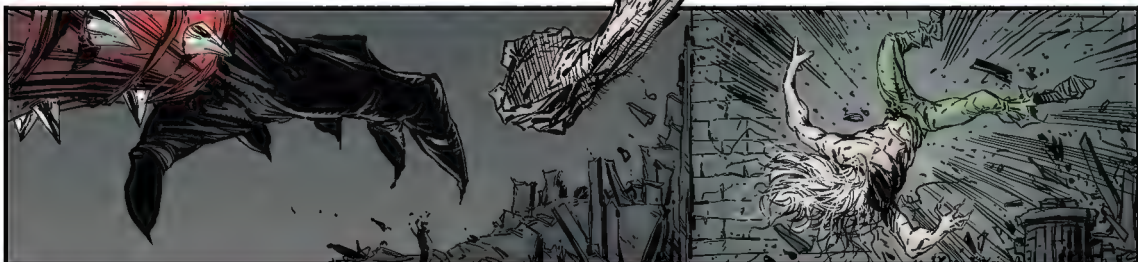
CLOWN WAS RIGHT-- YOU **ARE** OUT OF YOUR MIND!



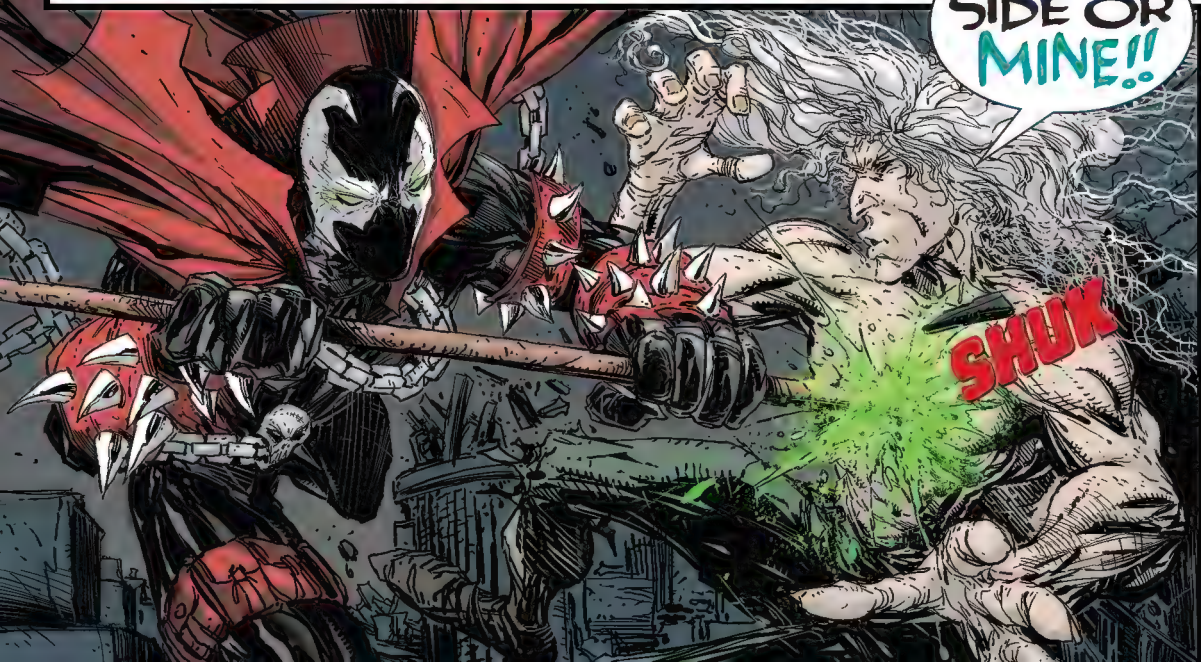
NEVER
MENTION
THAT
NAME
TO ME
AGAIN!!

BECAUSE
OF WHAT HE'S
BEEN PLANNING
THE CLOWN WILL
SUFFER THE
GREATEST
PAIN!

AND YOU!!
YOU'VE FALLEN
FOR HIS
TREACHEROUS GAME.
BUT NOW IT'S TIME
TO CHOOSE...



HIS
SIDE OR
MINE!!





GO TO
HELL!!

HAHAHAHAHA



YOU CAN'T
EVEN IMAGINE
THE *IRONY*
OF WHAT YOU
JUST SAID!

WORSE,
I CAN DRAIN
YOUR POWERS
IN A HEART-
BEAT!

GNNHHG



HE TRICKED
YOU, SPAWN. INTO
BEING HIS *FOOL*! HIS
ENTIRE EXISTENCE IS TO
LIE AND *DECEIVE* AND
YOU FELL VICTIM TO IT.
I EXPECTED MORE
FROM YOU.

BUT
CLOWN WILL
SOON FIND
THAT TWO CAN
PLAY HIS
GAME.

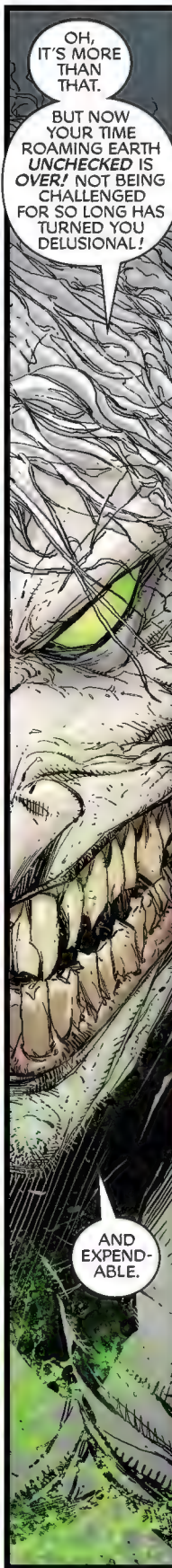


FREAK...





AWW--
THIS IS GOING
TO GET FUN!
IT APPEARS
YOUR TRIP TO
HELL HAS MADE
YOU MORE
RESILIENT!



OH,
IT'S MORE
THAN
THAT.

BUT NOW
YOUR TIME
ROAMING EARTH
UNCHECKED IS
OVER! NOT BEING
CHALLENGED
FOR SO LONG HAS
TURNED YOU
DELUSIONAL!

AND
EXPEND-
ABLE.



I'M
RECLAIMING
WHAT'S MINE.
STARTING WITH
THIS NEW
SPAWN.

AND
NOTHING
YOU DO
WILL STOP
THAT!!



HE'S
MINE!

NO!
THEY'RE ALL
MINE! EVERY
ONE OF THEM!
LOOK BEHIND
YOU...

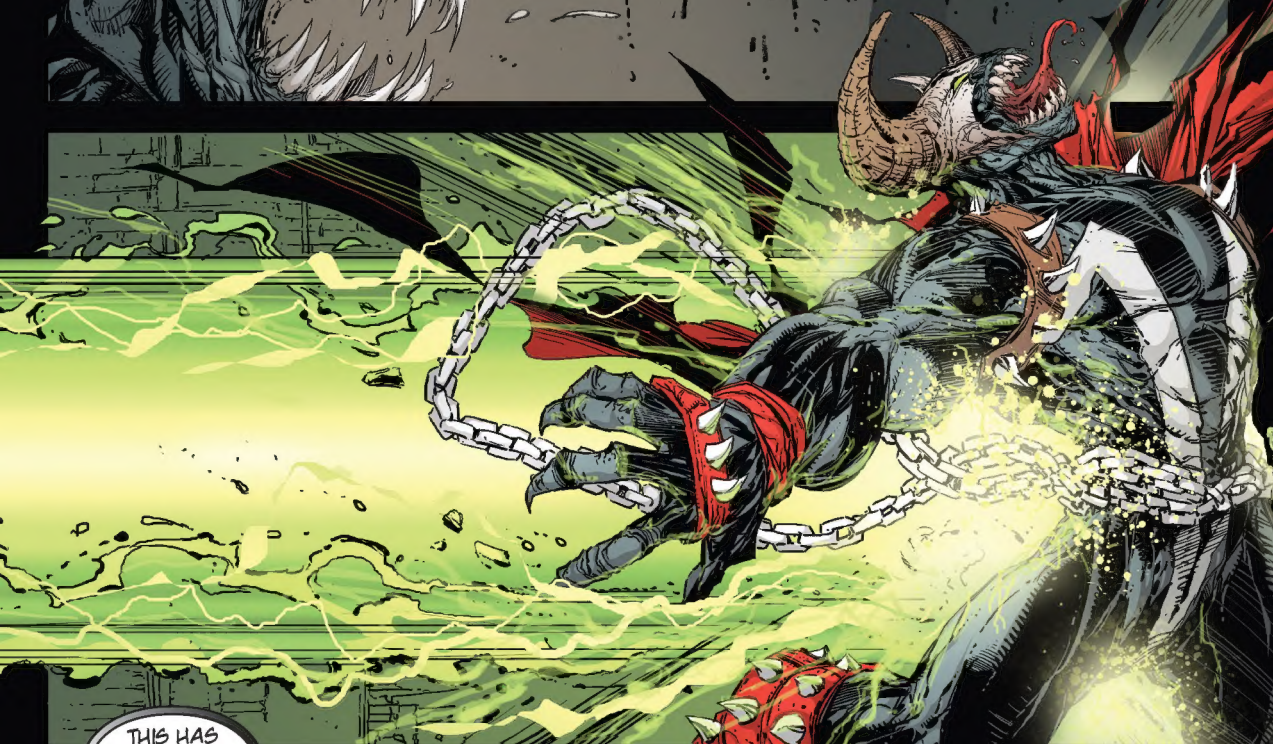


...AND SEE
THE KIND OF
**POWERFUL
SPAWNS**
I CONTROL!!

*See the
IMAGE UNITED
mini-series--Todd.

THIS ONE
HAS SO MUCH RAW
POWER THAT EVEN EARTH'S
GREATEST HEROES
COULDN'T ELIMINATE
HIM!*

AND SOON,
MY ARMY WILL BE
FILLED WITH
THOUSANDS JUST
LIKE HIM!



THIS HAS
GOTTEN
OUT OF
CONTROL!



LET'S
END
THIS!



SPAWN,
NO! HE'S MY
PROBLEM!



FAP

NOT
ANY
MORE.



SOME-
THING'S
WRONG!!
STOP!
DON'T GO
NEAR
HIM!



WHY?

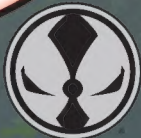


BECAUSE
HE'S
AFRAID

LOOK
INTO
MY EYES!
BOTH OF
YOU!

IT'S TIME TO
SHOW YOU WHO I
**REALLY
AM!!**

FIND OUT IN THE **HISTORIC 200th** ISSUE OF SPAWN!!
(FEATURING SOME OF COMICS GREATEST ARTISTS!)





Tyrant
Lizard
King

EMPIRE